

THE WESLEYAN.

"HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS."

Scripture.

VOLUME I.

HALIFAX, N. S. MONDAY EVENING, MAY 21, 1838.

NUMBER 7.

POETRY.

TO A STAR.

By J. G. WHITTIER.

Wonderful, yet familiar! fadeless gem,
Set by the hand Divine, in the arch
Of the eternal heaven! how beautiful
Thy soft light resteth on the unquiet sea,
That gathereth up its waves, as if the winds,
Of yesterday were prisoned in its depths,
And struggling to be free!

The hazy clouds,
Pale relics of the recent storm, have drawn
Their thin, grey shadows out upon the sky,
And curtained it in beauty. Thou alone
Lookest upon the darkness. The great wave
That cometh onward to the guarded shore,
With its eternal thunder, hath received
Thy solitary beam, yet paused not
In its mad turbulence. So have I seen
The light of woman's love, poured out upon
The darkness of man's soul, yet hushing not
The tempest of its passions—a blessed beam
Crossing the troubled surges of the mind,
Like moonlight glimpsing on a sky of storm.

Sole watcher of the heaven: I have not learned
Chaldea's mystic faith, yet thou dost seem
The emblem of a solitary heart
Companionless like mine. No kindred star
Hath gladness in thy presence: and thy light
Falleth upon the waters, like the love
Of a young heart upon the hollow world,
Unanswered, unregarded.

BIOGRAPHY

MEMOIR OF THE REV. WILLIAM BLACK. *Of Halifax, Nova Scotia.*

By THE REV. RICHARD KNIGHT.

Extracted from the Wesleyan Methodist Magazine, for July, 1837.
Concluded from page 58.

In the year 1791 he found the work of God has so extended, that he could no longer manage the societies alone. In the September of this year he visited the United States, to have an interview with Dr. Coke, and obtain some help. In the States, especially at Boston, his labours were greatly blessed. Very large congregations assembled to hear him preach; and to many the word came with saving power. In some instances, the beams of the rooms in which he preached were not strong enough to bear the weight of the people, and gave way. Several meeting houses were offered to him, but even these were too small. To this day his name is revered by many in Boston.

In the year 1794, after much deliberation, and prayer to God, he entered upon the most important of all domestic relations. He observes, on the occasion: "For some time I had thoughts of marriage. I prayed again and again that the Lord would direct me. I advised with my principal friends, and they approved of my design. I still brought the matter before the

Lord, and prayed that he would direct me in so important an engagement; and believing it to be the will of God, on the 17th of February I became united by marriage to Miss Mary Gay, of Cumberland." In this excellent woman he found a help meet for him; one in whom were united those properties which adorn the female, the wife, the parent, the friend, and the follower of Christ. She strengthened him by her counsel, stimulated him by her example, and sympathized with him in all his joys and sorrows. Called, as he was, in those days, to be frequently from home, (for his circuit embraced the whole province,) she watched over the society, in the place of her residence, with all the zeal and devotion of a "mother in Israel," while she carefully sustained the duties of the domestic circle. In short, if the words of Solomon were ever literally verified, "Whoso findeth a wife, findeth a good thing, and obtaineth favour of the Lord," they were so in their application to our departed friend. Her memory is blessed, and through the length and breadth of this province is her name had in affectionate remembrance.

In the year 1786 we find his name on the Minutes of Conference, as a duly authorized and regularly appointed Minister of our connexion. He had, however, for five years previous to this, devoted his whole time and energy to the important work of calling sinners to repentance. He had, amidst much labour and opposition, and sometimes even peril, been singularly successful; but now a more special and regular path of ministerial duty was marked out for him. To the itinerant work (as may be seen from his journals and letters) he brought a constitution of more than ordinary strength; a strong, sound, and discriminating judgment; the very desirable possession of great Christian prudence; and ardent thirst for the attainment of knowledge; talents for the ministry of the most useful kind; a heart intensely inflamed for the salvation of souls, and a fixed purpose to labour for God. These varied and important qualifications became more valuable when strengthened by faithful exercise, and matured by experience. Since I have read his pastoral letters and journals, and have thus caught some glimpses of him in the closet, in the family, in the church, and in the world, I can see how it is, that his memory is embalmed in the most endearing recollections of the churches. I had heard him called, long before I saw him, the Apostle of Methodism in Nova-Scotia. I have since found, that to this distinguished honour he has an unquestioned claim. Some favourable opinion must be formed of his zeal, when we find the devoted Dr. Coke, who was a Missionary in body and soul, thus writing to him—"You cannot be so useful in